PATENT

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III. Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in the current application. Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-20. Claims 21-24 stand rejected. Applicants have canceled Claims 21-24.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance at an early date, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1769.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 16, 2004

seph A. Powers, Reg. No.: 47,006

Attorney For Applicants

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